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STEREO PHOTOGRAPHY

C/M photography is seldom viewed stereoscopically in intelligence photo-interpretation, but the mere suggestion that it could be omitted in this search system is heresy. There are two possible explanations of this seeming contradiction: The presence of two photographs of themselves may be the overriding value in desiring stereo; or the fear of losing the work load represented by stereo may be felt as a personal economic threat to photointerpreters.

Two cameras, even when the photographs are not used stereoscopically, have considerable real value. Assuming unrelated failure modes, the probability of no photography is halved. Additional ground can be viewed around clouds when the two cameras point in different directions, and, when both cameras view the same area, the different viewing aspect relative to the incident illumination is often helpful.

However, all these potential advantages can still be realized if the cameras are operated at different times rather than simultaneously to obtain stereo pairs. Operating the cameras serially offers the opportunity for increased area coverage without weight or space penalty.

It is recommended that the justification for stereo photography be re-examined to ascertain whether it is stereo viewing, two camera coverage, or fear of work load reduction that motivates the request for stereo.

A possible approach to this re-examination consists of dividing photo-interpreters into two groups. One group is fully advised that the work load will not be reduced (or may be increased, in fact) whereas the second group is given no such briefing. Each group is then asked to survey their individual records for the last three or so months and report on what uses he made of stereo

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per se and what use he made of the different aspect angle from two camera coverage. This data, combined with ground area coverage obtained by one camera that was not obtained by the other camera (due to clouds, camera failure, corona fogging, or light leaks) should reveal the value of and justification for continued simultaneous camera operation.